



*Leahy*

Borough of Weston-super-Mare

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ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
Medical Officer of Health  
For the Year  
1955



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*Including the*  
REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR  
AND THE METEOROLOGICAL REPORT



# Borough of Weston-super-Mare

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## PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

(January to May, 1955)

*Chairman*

COUNCILLOR LT.-COL. G. C. G. GREY

*Vice-Chairman*

COUNCILLOR MRS. Y. E. BATTISCOMBE

ALDERMAN H. DODGSON, C.C.	COUNCILLOR G. HUGHES
ALDERMAN A. J. HEYBYRNE	COUNCILLOR R. IVENS
COUNCILLOR H. S. ALLEN	COUNCILLOR MRS. M. E. LUCAS
COUNCILLOR G. W. COUCH	COUNCILLOR H. W. THORNE
COUNCILLOR L. HOLTBY	COUNCILLOR CAPT. J. L. TREVITT

(May to December, 1955)

*Chairman*

COUNCILLOR LT.-COL. G. C. G. GREY

*Vice-Chairman*

COUNCILLOR MRS. Y. E. BATTISCOMBE

ALDERMAN H. DODGSON, C.C.	COUNCILLOR R. IVENS
ALDERMAN A. J. HEYBYRNE	COUNCILLOR H. C. LANYON
COUNCILLOR H. S. ALLEN	COUNCILLOR E. B. MOORE
COUNCILLOR G. W. COUCH	COUNCILLOR CAPT. J. L. TREVITT
COUNCILLOR L. HOLTBY, C.C.	COUNCILLOR F. H. WHITING

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

<i>Medical Officer of Health</i>	...	D. MCGOWAN
<i>Chief Sanitary Inspector</i>	...	I. A. STEPHENSON
<i>Abattoir Superintendent and Sanitary Inspector</i>	...	W. W. WHITE
<i>Sanitary Inspectors</i>	...	G. P. LAWRENCE
		E. KNOWLES
		A. SINGLETON (Resigned 30.11.54)
		S. JOULES
		Clerical Staff—5

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,  
THE TOWN HALL,  
WESTON-SUPER-MARE.

*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of  
The Borough of Weston-super-Mare.*

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report on the health of the Borough, and the work of the Public Health Department for 1955.

Measles was epidemic during the spring and summer months, but apart from this infection, which regularly sweeps through the susceptible child population every two years, there was no undue incidence of any of the serious notifiable diseases. Four cases of poliomyelitis were notified during the year, compared with five in 1954.

The number of deaths from all causes showed an increase on the previous year, the corrected death rate being 10·6 per 1,000 population, compared with 11·7 for the whole of England and Wales, while the birth rate rose from 11·5 per 1,000 population in 1954, to 12·8 in 1955. Only six infant deaths occurred during the year, giving the record low Infant Mortality Rate of 11·6 per 1,000 live births.

There was further progress in the improvement of the environmental services, the Ministry having approved the new supplementary water supply scheme, and plans for the main drainage scheme were sufficiently advanced to be ready for the public enquiry stage. In addition, 456 new houses were built during the year, 282 of them being erected by the Local Authority.

I would like to thank the Chairman and members of the Committees with which the Health Department is associated for their confidence and support, and the officers and staff of the Health and other Departments for their assistance and co-operation.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

DAVID MCGOWAN,

*Medical Officer of Health.*



# SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

## GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (including foreshore)	...	...	...	...	7,006 acres
Population—Registrar-General's estimate for mid-1955					40,330
Rateable Value (1st April, 1956)	...	...	...		£722,117
Sum represented by Penny Rate (31.3.56)	...	...			£1,834
Number of Inhabited dwellings (1st April, 1954):—					
Houses, Flats and Tenements	...	...			11,977
Private Hotels	...	...	...	...	234
Shops with houses	...	...	...		380
			TOTAL	...	<u>12,591</u>

## Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year 1955

Live Births:—				<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	...	...	238	251	489	
Illegitimate	...	...	16	12	28	
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	
Totals	...	...	254	263	517	

*Birth Rate per 1,000 Population* = 12·8

*Corrected Birth Rate (Comparability Factor 1·13)* = 14·5

<i>Still Births:—</i>				<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	...	...	5	3	8	
Illegitimate	...	...	—	1	1	
			—	—	—	
Totals	...	...	5	4	9	

*Still-Birth Rate (per 1,000 total births)* = 17·1

*Still-Birth Rate (per 1,000 population)* = 0·22

Deaths:—				<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
				287	348	635

*Crude Death-Rate (per 1,000 population)* = 15·8

*Corrected Death Rate (Comparability Factor 0·67)* = 10·6

*Maternal Deaths:—* Nil.

*Infant Mortality (Deaths of infants under 1 year of age)*

			<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	...	...	3	2	5
Illegitimate	...	...	1	—	1
			—	—	—
Totals	...	...	4	2	6
			—	—	—

*Infant Mortality Rate*    =    11·6 *per 1,000 live births*

*Death Rate per 1,000 population:—*

			1953	1954	1955
			—	—	—
Tuberculosis	...	...	0·10	0·08	0·17
Influenza	...	...	0·13	0·03	0·07
Pneumonia	...	...	0·33	0·30	0·47
Cancer (all forms)	...	...	2·35	2·78	2·70

# I. VITAL STATISTICS

## Births

The Registrar-General gives the corrected number of live births in the town as 517 (254 boys and 263 girls), this being 57 more than in 1954. Of these births, 28 were illegitimate (16 boys and 12 girls). This is 5·4 per cent of the total live births, as compared with 5·2 per cent in 1954.

The crude birth rate for 1955 was 12·8, and when the comparability factor (1·13) is applied, the corrected birth rate was 14·5 per 1,000 of the total population, compared with 13·0 in 1954. The birth rate for England and Wales in 1955 was 15·0.

## Birth Rates

Year	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
England and Wales ...	16·1	19·1	20·5	17·9	16·7	15·8	15·5	15·3	15·5	15·2	15·0
Weston-s-Mare	16·5	15·7	17·4	15·7	14·1	13·0	13·1	11·5	13·4	13·0	14·5
Percentage of Illegitimate Births to Total Births in Weston-s-Mare	12·3	6·1	7·5	6·4	7·3	5·7	5·8	4·6	6·0	5·2	5·4

## Deaths

After correction for transferable deaths the total assigned to the Borough by the Registrar-General was 635 (287 males and 348 females). This is 49 more than in 1954 and gives a crude death rate of 15·8 per 1,000 of population. When adjusted for age and sex distribution to make it comparable with other districts, the local death rate was 10·6, compared with 11·7 for England and Wales as a whole.

## Death Rates

Year	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
England and Wales ...	11·4	11·5	12·0	10·8	11·7	11·6	12·5	11·3	11·4	11·3	11·7
Crude D.R., Weston-s-Mare	15·3	14·5	15·9	13·3	15·5	15·6	16·9	15·5	13·6	15·0	15·8

<i>Causes of Death</i>		1955			<i>Difference from 1954 figures</i>
		<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>	
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory ...	3	3	6	+ 3
2.	Tuberculosis, other ... ..	1	—	1	+ 1
3.	Syphilitic diseases ... ..	1	1	2	+ 2
4.	Diphtheria ... ..	—	—	—	0
5.	Whooping cough ... ..	—	—	—	0
6.	Meningococcal infections ...	—	—	—	0
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis ... ..	—	—	—	— 1
8.	Measles ... ..	—	—	—	0
9.	Other infectious and parasitic diseases ... ..	1	2	3	+ 3
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	6	16	22	+ 6
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ... ..	15	1	16	+ 2
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast ...	—	13	13	+ 2
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	3	3	0
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ... ..	28	26	54	—10
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia ...	—	1	1	— 2
16.	Diabetes ... ..	1	7	8	— 1
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system ... ..	31	79	110	+14
18.	Coronary disease, angina ...	60	38	98	+13
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	5	7	12	+ 1
20.	Other heart disease ... ..	36	67	103	+23
21.	Other circulatory disease ...	9	18	27	+ 3
22.	Influenza ... ..	1	2	3	+ 2
23.	Pneumonia ... ..	8	11	19	+ 7
24.	Bronchitis ... ..	19	9	28	+11
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system ... ..	3	—	3	— 5
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	7	3	10	+ 7
27.	Gastritis, enteritis, and diarrhoea ... ..	2	1	3	— 1
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis ...	2	3	5	— 5
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate ...	7	—	7	+ 1
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—	0
31.	Congenital malformations ...	1	1	2	+ 1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases ... ..	25	20	45	— 7
33.	Motor vehicle accidents ...	3	—	3	0
34.	All other accidents ... ..	6	12	18	+ 2
35.	Suicide ... ..	6	4	10	+ 1
36.	Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—	0
All Causes—Total ... ..		287	348	635	+36
Deaths of infants under 1 year :					
	Total ... ..	8	2	10	
	Legitimate ... ..	7	2	9	
	Illegitimate ... ..	1	—	1	



# SEX AND AGE DISTRIBUTION OF DEATHS, 1955

<i>Ages at Death in years</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Difference from 1954 figures</i>
Under 1 ...	4	2	6	— 4
1— ...	—	2	2	+ 2
5— ...	1	—	1	— 1
15— ...	3	—	3	— 1
25— ...	12	6	18	+ 5
45— ...	75	50	125	+10
65—69 ...	45	43	88	+18
Total under 70 years	—140	—103	—243	+29
70— ...	41	49	90	+17
75— ...	44	65	109	+ 1
80— ...	31	67	98	— 7
85— ...	26	40	66	+ 3
90— ...	4	15	19	—13
95— ...	1	8	9	+ 6
Over 100...	—	1	1	0
Total over 70 years	—147	—245	—392	+ 7
Totals ...	287	348	635	+36

## Maternal Mortality

There were no deaths due to maternal causes in 1955.

## Stillbirths

The registered number of stillbirths in 1955 was 9 (5 males and 4 females), of which one was illegitimate, thus giving a stillbirth rate of 17·1 per 1,000 total births, or 0·22 per 1,000 of total population.

## Infant Mortality

Only six children (four boys and two girls) under the age of one year died in 1955. This compares with 10 deaths in 1954, and gives a very low Infant Mortality Rate of 11·6 per 1,000 live births, the previous lowest rate being 18·8 in 1953. The Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales in 1955 was 24·9 per 1,000 live births. As I have always pointed out, however, the comparatively small numbers involved make annual rates fluctuate to a certain extent,

but there can be no doubt that this low figure reflects great credit on all the services dealing with the care of the expectant mother and infant—the general medical practitioner, hospital, local authority and social services.

Of the six children who died, three died during the first month, the causes of death being prematurity in two cases, and congenital heart disease in the other. Of the remaining children, two died from infection and one from a congenital lesion of the lung and pancreas. These details are given in the table on page 9.

The Still Birth Rate for the year was also the lowest on record, being only 17·1 per 1,000 total births.

Infant Deaths, 1955

	Under 1 Day	1—2 Days	2—7 Days	Total under 1 week	1—2 Weeks	2—4 Weeks	Total under 1 Month	1—3 Months	3—6 Months	6—9 Months	9—12 Months	Total under 1 Year
1. Prematurity ... ..	1	—	1	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
2. Congenital heart disease ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1
3. Acute Encephalitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
4. Fibrocystic disease of lung and pancreas ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
5. Pyelonephritis ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Total ... ..	1	—	1	2	—	1	3	1	2	—	—	6

Infant Mortality Rates, 1943-1955

Year	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
England and Wales ...	49	46	46	43	41	34	32	29·8	29·6	27·6	26·8	25·4	24·9
Weston- super- Mare	29	32	19	25	24	15	13	17	10	14	10	10	6
I.M.R. ...	48·8	47·8	30·7	40·9	34·8	24·1	23·1	32·5	19·2	30·7	18·8	21·7	11·6

## INQUESTS

<i>Causes of Deaths</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Natural causes ... ..	1	1	2
Occupational Causes:—			
Pneumoconiosis ... ..	1	—	1
Accidents, directly or indirectly:—			
Falls in home ... ..	2	5	7
Falls from window ... ..	1	—	1
Road accidents ... ..	3	—	3
Rail accidents ... ..	1	—	1
Drowning ... ..	2	—	2
Coal gas poisoning ... ..	—	5	5
Sucide:—			
Coal gas poisoning ... ..	5	3	8
Barbiturate poisoning ... ..	1	—	1
Drowning ... ..	—	1	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL ...	17	15	32
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

## POPULATION

The Registrar-General gives 40,330 as the mid-year estimate of the normal resident population of the Borough in 1955, although the official Census Report for 1951 gives the population in that year as 40,396.

### Registrar-General's Estimate of Population in Weston-super-Mare 1939–1955

1939 ... ..	35,280	1948 ... ..	39,710
1940 ... ..	40,810	1949 ... ..	39,830
1941 ... ..	44,500	1950 ... ..	40,210
1942 ... ..	41,250	1951 ... ..	39,660 (Census—40,396)
1943 ... ..	38,100	1952 ... ..	39,540
1944 ... ..	37,930	1953 ... ..	39,650
1945 ... ..	37,470	1954 ... ..	39,990
1946 ... ..	38,890	1955 ... ..	40,330
1947 ... ..	39,590		



## II. GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES

### I. HOSPITALS

The hospitals providing accommodation and treatment for residents of the town and surrounding districts are administered by the South-West Regional Hospital Board, through the Weston-super-Mare Hospital Management Committee. The hospitals situated in the town are:—

Weston-super-Mare General Hospital

Ashcombe House Maternity Hospital

Drove Road Hospital

Royal West of England Convalescent Hospital

#### **Drove Road Hospital**

Drove Road Hospital, which was originally the Borough Isolation Hospital, was converted to a Geriatric Hospital in March, 1951, and since then has been of great benefit in dealing with the sick and infirm old people of the town. The demand for beds in Drove Road Hospital, however, is always greater than the vacancies available, especially during the winter months, and although Ilex Lodge at Axbridge takes a number of Weston-super-Mare patients, there is always a long waiting list waiting for admission.

#### **Ashcombe House Maternity Hospital**

There were 493 live births registered in the town during the year, and of these 384 occurred in Ashcombe House, two in the General Hospital, fifteen in private nursing homes, and 92 only at home.

Of the 384 live births which occurred in Ashcombe House, 304 were children of Weston mothers, the remaining 80 being children of mothers from Axbridge Rural District.

The rate of hospital confinements was not so high as in previous years, 23 per cent of births taking place at home, compared with 14·5 per cent in 1954.

## II. LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITY SERVICES

The following services in the Borough are administered by the Somerset County Council.

#### **Infant Welfare Clinics**

Bournville Public Hall	...	Monday	2.30 to 4.30 p.m.
3, Neva Road	...	Tuesday	2.30 to 4.30 p.m.
Baytree Road	...	Wednesday	2.30 to 4.30 p.m.
Moorland Road	...	Thursday	2.30 to 4.30 p.m.

**Infant Welfare Clinic Attendances, 1955**

	Bournville	Neva Road	Baytree Road	Moorland Road	Total
1. Total attendance of children in 1955 ...	1,816	3,436	3,308	1,903	10,463
2. No. of individual children who attended in 1955 ...	275	431	389	242	1,337
3. No. of individual mothers who attended in 1945 ...	215	359	303	202	1,079

**Ante-Natal Clinics**

- 3, Neva Road—Wednesday, 10 a.m.
- 3, Neva Road (Midwives' Clinic)—Friday, 2.30 p.m.

**Health Visiting Service**

There are five Health Visitors in the town, and the following is a summary of the Home Visiting work in 1955.

Visits to Ante-Natal cases	...	...	239
Visits to infants under 1 year	...	...	4,770
Visits to children 1 to 5 years	...	...	9,738
Visits to school children	...	...	1,022
Visits <i>re</i> infectious diseases	...	...	459
Other visits	...	...	793
			17,021

**District Nursing Service**

Home nursing is provided by this service, and the value of the work done by the District Nurses cannot be praised too highly. They deal with about 1,000 new cases each year.

**Home Help Service**

The work of the District Nurses is ably backed by the Home Help Service, which provides domestic help in cases of sickness and for old people.



### **School Health Service**

The North-West Somerset Divisional Executive Area covers Weston-super-Mare and Axbridge Rural District. There are about 8,600 schoolchildren in the area in schools administered by the Education Authority, about 5,500 of whom attend schools in Weston-super-Mare. During 1955, 2,731 children had a routine medical inspection in school, and in addition there were 1,341 special examinations and 2,402 re-examinations. Of the 2,731 children who had a routine medical inspection 282 were found to require treatment for some defect (apart from dental defect.)

The Health Centre at 3 Neva Road, houses an Infant Welfare Clinic, Minor Ailments Clinic, Speech Clinic, Ante-Natal Clinic, and the Child Guidance Clinic, in addition to being the headquarters of the District Nursing Service, the Home Help Service and the Mental Health Officer.

### **Ambulance Service**

The County Council provides an Ambulance and Hospital Car Service through the agency of the British Red Cross Society and St. John Ambulance Brigade. The group headquarters for the area is at 41 and 43, Oxford Street, Weston-super-Mare.

## **III. LOCAL AUTHORITY SERVICES**

### **First Aid Post and Centre for Lost Children**

The First Aid Post was again staffed during the summer season by members of the British Red Cross Society and St. John Ambulance Brigade, and the Centre for Lost Children was in charge of a Matron appointed by the Police.

Owing to the exceptionally fine summer, and the large number of visitors to the town, the number of cases dealt with at the First Aid Post and the number of lost children brought to the Centre were the highest since the First Aid Post and Centre were opened.

During the summer season, the First Aid Post dealt with 1,498 cases (916 in 1954), and of these 34 were sent to hospital, while the Police Matron looked after 793 children (304 in 1954), including 116 on August Bank Holiday.

### **Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948**

This provides for the removal to a suitable place of persons who are in need of care and attention, through age or disease, and who are living in insanitary conditions. This step is only taken, of course, in extreme cases, and only after repeated persuasion has failed. Most old people who reach this sad and pathetic state eventually agree to go into a hospital or Local Authority Home voluntarily, but their fear of being taken from their familiar, although sordid, surroundings is not easily overcome.

One case was dealt with under this section of the Act during the year. Her history is familiar and typical—a very old lady with increasing blindness, and deteriorating mental and physical powers, who lived alone, and whose standards of cleanliness and care had gradually deteriorated until she was living in very squalid surroundings, and feeding almost entirely on tea and bread. Provision of help in her home would not have solved the problem, and as she stoutly refused to leave her home voluntarily, court action had to be taken for her to be removed to hospital.

### **Refuse Disposal**

Controlled tipping continued on the Old Junction Road site, the spreading and covering of the refuse being carried out by means of an angledozer. There has been considerable saving in the costs of tipping since the old manual methods were discontinued. As the amount of suitable land for tipping purposes belonging to the Council was almost used up, steps were taken in 1954 to acquire a further 80 acres of land adjacent to the Old Junction Road site. A public enquiry was held on the Council's proposals in May, and as a result, permission was given to acquire 40 acres. This is sufficient to give tipping space for at least another ten years.

### **Water Supplies**

The Banwell Spring met normal winter demands, but had to be supplemented from the Weston Well during the period from the end of July to the beginning of November, when owing to the very dry summer, great difficulty was met in maintaining supplies.

The raw water from Banwell Spring still showed considerable fluctuations in quality, and required careful watching. The quality of the Weston Well water, however, showed remarkably good bacteriological results during the time the Well was in use, although it is a very hard water, and has a very high chloride content. The quality of the treated water from both sources was uniformly good. During the year, 85 samples of raw water were examined bacteriologically, of which 45 were found to be unsatisfactory. 104 samples of treated water were examined, and all were found satisfactory. Five chemical analyses of raw water were made, and these were satisfactory. The water has no plumbo-solvent action.

The scheme to obtain a supplementary water supply from the Bristol Waterworks Company was the subject of a Public Enquiry early in 1955, and was approved by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government in April. Tenders for the supply of pipes and mainlaying were accepted, and the work on laying the 16" main from Sidcot to Banwell was started in February, 1956.



The following extensions of the public water supply were carried out during the year:—

6" main from Bridgwater Road to Bournville Estate completed.  
Little Orchard Council Estate—120 yds. of 3" main—completed.  
Union Street reconstruction—52 yds. of 3" main  
172 yds. of 4" main

Several supplies to new Private Building Developments including:—

Cedar Avenue—130 yds. of 3" main  
Hutton Moor Estate —1,000 yds. of 3" main  
325 yds of 4" main  
Spring Hill Estate —200 yds. of 3" main

Future proposals for the extension of water supplies are:—

Oldmixon Housing Estate No. 1 (Council):—

570 yds. of 3" main  
3,010 yds. of 4" main  
80 yds. of 6" main

Bridgwater Road—810 yds. of 8" main

Summerlands Estate—920 yds. of 12" main

Extension of Bleadon Reservoir

Supplementary Supply Scheme from Bristol Waterworks Company

Supplies to Private Building Development

### **Drainage and Sewerage**

The following improvements and extensions were carried out during the year:—

Reconstruction of 30 yds. outfall sewer (Devonshire Road)  
Completion of Uphill Pumping Station  
Cleaving and repair of outfall sewer (continuous)  
Oldmixon off site sewer (15" diameter) (part)  
Oldmixon Estate No. 1 foul and surface water sewers (1st stage)  
New sewers on private estates, including Ejector Station at  
Hutton Moor Lane Union Street replacement of 175 yds.  
of 15" diameter sewer

Future proposals are:—

Completion of Oldmixon off site sewer  
Completion of Oldmixon Estate No. 1 foul and surface water  
water sewers  
Main Drainage Scheme.

### **Housing**

Good progress was made in the building of new houses during the year, 282 being erected by the Local Authority, compared with 120 in 1954, while 174 were built by private enterprise, compared with 174 in 1954. There was another welcome fall in the number of

applicants for Council houses, and at the end of the year there were 628 on the list compared with 820 at the end of 1954, and 1,058 in 1953.

The Council decided to operate Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1949, as from 20th September, 1954. The Act allows the Local Authority to give grants to owners to bring substandard but structurally sound houses up to modern standards of comfort and convenience, or for the conversion of larger houses into two or more self-contained dwellings. There are in Weston-super-Mare many houses which, although old and lacking in amenities, are structurally sound and could be brought up to modern standards at comparatively small cost to the owner by the provision of an Improvement Grant. Similarly, every encouragement should be given to owners of large houses which are at present under-occupied, to convert them to completely self-contained dwellings.

There is no doubt that money spent by the Local Authority in an effective and realistic use of the Act will probably in the end save much more by preventing substandard houses from falling into complete decay.

By the end of 1955, 89 applications had been received, of which 43 were approved, 8 were rejected, 17 were withdrawn, and 21 were still under consideration at the end of the year. The great majority of the applications were for grants for conversion of larger houses into two or more self-contained flats, and only a comparatively small number were for the improvement of amenities in older houses.

The Housing Repairs and Rents Act, which came into operation on 30th August, 1954, required the Council to submit to the Minister of Housing and Local Government proposals for dealing with the houses in their area which appeared to them to be unfit for human habitation, and liable to demolition. In August, 1955, the Council submitted a list of 195 houses for action in this way, 168 to be dealt with under clearance area procedure, and the remaining 27 to be dealt with as individual unfit houses. The Council felt that they could deal with the problem within five years.



### III. PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

#### NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE, 1955

	<i>Total cases notified</i>	<i>Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital</i>	<i>Deaths</i>
Diphtheria ... ..	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ... ..	18	2	—
Erysipelas ... ..	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	10	—	—
Measles ... ..	757	1	—
Whooping cough... ..	138	8	—
Acute Poliomyelitis ... ..	4	3	1
Acute Encephalitis ... ..	—	—	—
Dysentery ... ..	4	1	—
Food poisoning ... ..	10	—	—
Enteric Fever (including Para- typhoid) ... ..	—	—	—
Pneumonia (all types) ... ..	6	—	—
Meningococcal Infection ... ..	1	1	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ... ..	—	—	—
Smallpox ... ..	—	—	—
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary) ... ..	39	—	6
Tuberculosis (Non-Pulmonary)... ..	—	—	1

The usual biennial epidemic of measles began in March, and by September 757 cases had been notified. Only one case had to be admitted to hospital, and there were no deaths due to the infection.

Notifications of whooping cough followed the usual pattern, being scattered throughout the year, and a total of 138 cases were notified.

In contrast with 1954, when 123 cases were notified, scarlet fever showed a low incidence in 1955, only 18 cases being notified.

Four cases of poliomyelitis were notified, compared with five in 1954. Three of the cases showed some paralysis, but the fourth was of the non-paralytic type.

Two major outbreaks of food-poisoning occurred during the year. The first outbreak occurred in a school when 86 out of 340 children developed severe vomiting and diarrhoea 12–18 hours after taking a school lunch. The outbreak was probably due to a staphylococcal toxin, although the actual source was not discovered. The second outbreak occurred in an institution where 12 of the staff were affected. The infecting organism was found to be *Clostridium Welchii* and a similar organism was isolated from meat which had been used to make up a pie which the staff had for supper on the previous evening.

## Tuberculosis

There were 39 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis, and no cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis notified during the year. Six deaths were due to pulmonary tuberculosis, and one to non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

A Unit of the Mass Radiography Service visited the Town Hall during February, and 3,559 people were examined. Only one case of active lung tuberculosis was found in this total, although 25 inactive cases were discovered.

## Diphtheria Immunisation

Again there were no cases of diphtheria notified in 1955, and since the end of the war only four cases have occurred in the town. The last death from diphtheria was in 1942.

Immunisation against diphtheria in infant welfare clinics and by private doctors continued through the year, and 254 children under 5 years of age received primary immunisation. 62 children in the age group 5–14 years received primary immunisation, and 403 children under the age of 15 received reinforcing doses.

## Vaccination against Smallpox

185 primary vaccinations and 52 re-vaccinations against smallpox were carried out by private general practitioners in the Borough during 1955. The following table, giving the age distribution of persons vaccinated shows that only 136 children under the age of 1 year received primary vaccination. (Number of live births in 1955=517).

### Persons Vaccinated (or re-vaccinated) in 1955

Age Groups	Under 1		1		2—4		5—14		15 & over		Totals	
	<i>P</i>	<i>R</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>R</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>R</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>R</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>R</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>R</i>
Weston-super-Mare	136	—	12	—	6	—	10	7	21	45	185	52
Somerset County ..	2557	3	135	3	118	22	103	95	160	444	3073	567

*P*—Primary vaccination

*R*—Re-vaccination



## IV. SANITARY WORK

### CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of  
The Borough of Weston-super-Mare.*

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report on the sanitary administration of the Borough of Weston-super-Mare.

During the year 1955, good progress was made with regard to the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954. The immediate requirement of the Act was a survey of houses within the Borough to determine which were unfit for human habitation. Proposals for dealing with these houses and with any other houses which ought to be included in Clearance Areas were made. Some 200 houses it is anticipated will be dealt with during the next five years.

One feature of the present day housing position is the increase in the number of owner occupiers. Many owners of tenanted properties in a poor state of repair have deemed it wise to dispose of their houses to the occupiers. The latter, buying cheaply, have been in a position to carry out repairs, and are taking advantage in increasing numbers, of grants which may be given for improvement under the Housing Act, 1949.

Conditions in food premises, and the observance of hygienic methods in the preparation, handling and storage of food again showed much improvement, and the standard compares very favourably with any other Borough. This is largely due to the valuable interest taken by the public in refusing to shop at premises which do not come up to proper hygiene standards. The fact that no raw milk is allowed to be sold in the Borough is also an indication of the progress made; that is to say only " specially designated milk, i.e. pasteurised, sterilised or Tuberculin Tested, is allowed to be sold. This scheme is of primary importance in the campaign to reduce the spread of infection of bovine origin, in particular tuberculosis. It is pleasing to note the progress made nationally and locally.

During the year the Council embarked upon a scheme to improve the Abattoir, by erecting a chilling room capable of holding 170 sides of beef. This is a long felt want and no doubt will be much appreciated during the summer months.

With pleasure I take this opportunity of recording my sincere thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health and Water Committee of the Council, and to the Chief Officers for their help and co-operation. I am also indebted to the District Inspectors and clerical staff for the valuable service they rendered throughout the year.

I am Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

I. A. STEPHENSON,

*Chief Sanitary Inspector.*

## COURT AND STATUTORY PROCEEDINGS

Statutory Notices served ... .. 14

## HOUSING

Improvement Grants made under the Housing Act, 1949–54. Number of applications and houses dealt with by the Local Authority:—

	<i>Received</i>		<i>Approved</i>		<i>Rejected</i>		<i>Under consideration</i>		<i>Withdrawn</i>	
	<i>Aps.</i>	<i>No. of houses</i>	<i>Aps.</i>	<i>No. of houses</i>	<i>Aps.</i>	<i>No. of houses</i>	<i>Aps.</i>	<i>No. of houses</i>	<i>Aps.</i>	<i>No. of houses</i>
31.7.49—										
31.12.54...	16	22	11	15	3	3	—	—	2	4
During Year ...	73	92	32	44	5	5	21	26	15	17
TOTALS ...	89	114	43	59	8	8	21	26	17	21

## VERMIN INFESTATION

The following action was taken:—

Treatments — Primary	...	...	...	18
Secondary	...	...	...	2
Preventive	...	...	...	—
To rooms	...	...	...	66

The agents used for disinfection are:—

(1) Ris; (2) Killgercide; (3) Zaldecide; (4) D.D.T.; (5) the use of fumigants in conjunction with the above preparations.

## ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

During the year, 62 visits and observations were made by the department to keep down the level of pollution from various sources. It is realised to-day that any real step forward must force attention on prevention rather than abatement.

The right type of fuel used together with a good stoker goes a long way in the prevention of smoke.

## PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS

The important work of rodent control again received the energetic attention of the department. Responsibility for keeping premises free from rat infestation rests with the occupier, and it can be fairly said all now realise that measures necessary to deal with these destructive and disease bearing pests must be continuous in all parts of the Borough.



The two half yearly treatments of the sewers were carried out under the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries Scheme, and combined with the assistance of the Engineer's sewer men engaged on this work, ensured the smooth working and successful application of both treatments.

The rodenticide “ Warfarin ” has continued to show excellent results and large areas of the Borough have been cleared of rats by the application of this modern and scientific treatment.

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
	<i>Local Authority</i>	<i>Dwelling House (inc. Council Houses)</i>	<i>All other (including Business Premises)</i>	<i>Total of Cols (1) (2) &amp; (3)</i>	<i>Agriculture</i>
I. Number of properties in Local Authority's District	34	12,698	627	13,359	16
II. Number of properties inspected as a result of:					
(a) Notification ...	7	505	45	557	3
(b) Survey under the Act	3	16	1	20	2
(c) Otherwise (e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose ...	20	104	108	232	10
III. Total inspections carried out — including re-inspections ...	68	536	214	818	5
IV. Number of properties inspected (in Sect. II) which were found to be infested by:					
(a) Rats { Major ...	—	—	—	—	—
{ Minor ...	7	120	17	144	1
Mice { Major ...	—	—	2	2	—
{ Minor ...	1	1	12	14	—
V. Number of infested properties (in Sect. IV treated by the L.A. ... ..)	8	121	31	160	1
VI. Total treatments carried out—including re-treatments ... ..	18	224	79	321	3
VII. Number of notices served under Section 4 of the Act:					
(a) Treatment ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Structural Work ...	—	2	1	3	1

# **FACTORIES ACT, 1937**

1. INSPECTION FOR purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

<i>Premises</i> (1)	<i>Number on Register</i> (3)	<i>Number of</i>		<i>Occupiers prosecuted</i> (6)
		<i>Inspections</i> (4)	<i>Written Notices</i> (5)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	81	116	1	—
(ii) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ... ..	192	250	5	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) ...	—	—	—	—
Total ... ..	273	366	6	—

2. CASES in which Defects were found.

<i>Particulars</i>	<i>Number of cases in which defects were found</i>			
	<i>Found</i>	<i>Remedied</i>	<i>Referred To H.M. Inspector</i>	<i>By H.M. Inspector</i>
Want of cleanliness (S. 1)	3	3	—	—
Overcrowding (S. 2) ...	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S. 3) ... ..	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S. 4) ... ..	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S. 6) ... ..	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S. 7)				
(a) Insufficient ... ..	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ... ..	1	1	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ... ..	1	—	—	1
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work) ... ..	3	3	—	—
Total ... ..	8	7	—	1



3. OUTWORK—Section 110 and 111 of the Factories Act, 1937.

<i>Nature of Work</i>	<i>No. of out- workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c)</i>	<i>Section 111 Notices Served</i>
Wearing apparel (making, etc. Cleaning and Washing)	9	—
Total        ...        ...        ...        ...	9	—

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

Nine premises were registered as required by the Act, and during the year 2 samples were taken and reported upon by the public analyst as satisfactory.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

The registrations in respect of 3 premises were renewed after inspection.

SHOPS

There are in the Borough over 683 shops and other business premises, which to some extent come under the provisions of this Act, which are of a complex legal nature. The conditions of employment laid down in the Act are being well observed as regards half holiday, lunch intervals, hours of employment, etc. An improvement in the observance of the Act has been achieved.

Total number of shops inspected	...	...	...	201
Number of visits made for the purpose	...	...	...	385

Health and Comfort of Shop Workers

The following contraventions of Section 38 of the Shop Acts, 1950 were remedied by informal action:

<i>Shops in which:—</i>	<i>No. of Shops</i>
the sanitary conveniences were unsuitable or insufficient        ...        ...        ...        ...        ...	6
the washing facilities were unsuitable or insufficient	8
chairs were not provided for female shop assistants	—
notices were not exhibited as required by the Shops Act and Shop Regulations        ...        ...        ...	42

## **CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS AND FOOD HYGIENE**

Since the war a steady improvement has undoubtedly taken place in the conditions under which food is prepared in local cafes and hotels. Despite increased building costs and high price of equipment, improvements have been carried out in a number of premises.

The success of the drive for clean and safe food will depend not only on the provision of modernised buildings and fittings, but even more on the maintenance of a high standard of personal hygiene by the staff, and sterilization of equipment. The food handler must be fully conscious of his responsibilities towards the public, and this can only be achieved by education at an early age. The employer can assist by providing all amenities possible for the staff—rest rooms with facilities for taking meals, white overalls and head gear, and clothes lockers are some of the items which should be provided. It must not be forgotten that the public have a part to play; dogs for instance are still being taken into food shops and cafes by customers, instead of being left outside properly cared for.

The new Food and Drugs Act will give additional powers to local authorities in the control of conditions in food premises. Court action will never replace persuasion in this matter, and all health officers are convinced that education must play a major role in any real and lasting improvement as it is clear that cleanliness is an attitude of mind.

### **Food Inspection and Condemnation**

Apart from the specific duties of food inspection carried out under the Food and Drugs Act, it must be remembered that inspectors are busily occupied amongst their many other duties, in ensuring that the food which ultimately reaches the consumer is bacteriologically and chemically sound. Inspection of meat, fish and food stuffs in shops is carefully carried out, and retailers seek the opinion of the department when in doubt, and this procedure is encouraged.

It is known of course, that the Food and Drugs Act authorises the inspector to seize food which he has reason to consider unfit for human consumption and lay it before a Justice of the Peace, who, if he is convinced of its unsoundness may make an order condemning it and order its destruction. This course rarely needs to be pursued and the co-operation of the food traders in this matter, and the unceasing vigilance of the inspectorate is to some extent the reason for the confidence of the general public in the nation's food.

### **MOVABLE DWELLINGS**

The number of licensed caravan sites in the Borough at the end of the year was ten, and these provided accommodation for 404 caravans. In general the sites are well run and satisfy the need for accommodation. The Department is continually being asked for information concerning caravan sites, especially for permanent sites.



## OFFENSIVE TRADES

There is only one offensive trade, a gut scrapers business which is operating at the Public Abattoir. This business has not caused any serious nuisance.

### SUMMARY OF VISITS BY SANITARY INSPECTORS

Total number of inspections and visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	9,373
Nuisances or complaints	...	...	...	...	...	...	639
Housing:—							
Inspected for housing defects under Public Health Act or Housing Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	239
Re-visits made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	...	...	774
Houses inspected under the Housing Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	285
Re-visits made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	...	...	229
Found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Found not to be in all respects reasonably fit	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Council House applicant visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	522
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Verminous Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	52
Cesspools	...	...	...	...	...	...	52
Cinemas and Public Buildings	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Drainage:—							
Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	175
Tests	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Dustbins	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Factories:—							
Power	...	...	...	...	...	...	250
Non-Power	...	...	...	...	...	...	116
Food Premises:—							
Abattoir	...	...	...	...	...	...	540
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	96
Butchers Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	379
Catering Establishments	...	...	...	...	...	...	183
Dairies and Milk Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	203
Food Shops and Food Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	650
Ice Cream Shops and Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	100
Infectious Disease visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	44
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	...	...	...	33
Interviews with Owners, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	351
Miscellaneous Visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	816



Visits <i>re</i> offensive accumulations	...	...	...	...	55
Visits <i>re</i> Pet Animals Act	...	...	...	...	3
Visits <i>re</i> Public and Private Refuse Tips	...	...	...	...	463
Visits <i>re</i> Rats and Mice	...	...	...	...	818
Visits <i>re</i> Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act	...	...	...	...	4
Visits <i>re</i> Shops Act	...	...	...	...	284
Visits <i>re</i> Smoke Abatement	...	...	...	...	62
Visits <i>re</i> Stables and Piggeries	...	...	...	...	123
Visits <i>re</i> Tents, vans and sheds	...	...	...	...	324

#### Samples Taken:—

Bottle rinses	...	...	...	...	...	102
Drinking Water	...	...	...	...	...	23
Food	...	...	...	...	...	201
Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	...	138
Milk	...	...	...	...	...	81
Rag Flock and other Filling Materials Act	...	...	...	...	...	2
Swimming Bath Water	...	...	...	...	...	84

### WORK DONE

Houses repaired (Housing and Public Health Acts)	...	74
Houses repaired informally under Housing Acts	...	69
Houses repaired formally under Housing Acts	...	5
Roofs repaired or stripped and retiled or reslated	...	53
Floors repaired	...	12
Fire grates renewed or repaired	...	6
Doors repaired or new fixed	...	8
Windows renewed or repaired	...	37
Plastering of walls and/or ceilings repaired or stripped	...	53
Rain water spouting or guttering repaired or renewed	...	16
Walls pointed and repaired or rendered	...	22
External plaster repaired or re-rendered	...	15
Chimney stacks and flues repaired or rebuilt	...	8
Damp proof courses inserted	...	6
Yards etc. paved, repaired or relaid	...	1
Tenants required to amend conditions	...	2
Refuse bins provided	...	2

#### Drainage:—

Drains cleared and cleansed or repaired	...	11
Drains trapped and properly ventilated	...	3
Water closet flushing cisterns fixed or repaired	...	8
New water closet pedestal fixed	...	2
Accumulations of rubbish removed	...	10
Ditches and back lanes clesnsed	...	3

Infectious Diseases, Disinfections, etc:—

				<i>Rooms</i>	<i>Articles</i>
Scarlet Fever	...	...		17	94
Tuberculosis	...	...		34	121
Erysipelas	...	...	...	1	11
Cancer	...	...	...	5	72
Non-Notifiable infections	...			21	363
Scabies	...	...	...	0	3
Pneumonia	...	...	...	1	20
Vermin	...	...	...	68	20
Total				147	704

DAIRIES AND MILK SHOPS

The supervision of milk production on the farms is the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture. The supervision of handling, processing and distribution lies with the Local Authority. Names of all distributors are kept in a register. From the table which follows it will be seen that the sampling and examination of milk has been done on a large scale by the sanitary authority.

81 samples of designated milk were examined with the results given below.

<i>Designation of Milk</i>	<i>No. of samples tested</i>	<i>Appropriate Test</i>	<i>No. of Samples</i>	
			<i>Passed</i>	<i>Failed</i>
Pasteurised ...	39	Methylene Blue and Phosphatase	39	0
Tuberculin Tesed Pasteurised ...	5	Methylene Blue and Phosphatase	5	0
Tuberculin Tested	37	Methylene Blue	28	9

DRINKING WATER

23 samples of water for bacteriological analysis from taps in various parts of the district were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory with satisfactory results.

SWIMMING BATH WATER

84 samples of swimming bath water from the Open Air Swimming Pool and Knightstone Baths were submitted for bacteriological analysis, and were found to be of a high standard of purity.

Periodical testing of water during day-time for residual chlorine was carried out with satisfactory results.

The approximate number of bathers for the year was as follows:—

Open Air Swimming Pool	...	...	...	...	340,000
Knightstone Baths	...	...	...	...	190,000

## ICE CREAM

Ice cream, like milk, is a food which is easily contaminated, and there are regulations which require the ice cream mix to be heated to a specified temperature for a given time. In other words it has to be pasteurised so that harmful bacteria may be killed or be prevented from multiplying. The heated mix must then be cooled to a certain temperature and during storage must be kept below regulation temperature. Apart from these safeguards it is necessary for a high standard of cleanliness to be maintained throughout the whole process, and experience has shown that this can be achieved by systematic and regular cleansing of all machine pipe lines, valves, etc. Apart from visual inspection it is possible to use the bacteriological examination of ice cream to indicate its standard of cleanliness and purity.

During the year 138 samples were taken with the following results:—

	HOT MIX					COLD MIX				
	Total Samples	Grades				Total Samples	Grades			
		1	2	3	4		1	2	3	4
Jan.	8	5	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Feb.	8	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mar.	8	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
April	6	5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
May	15	12	1	2	—	1	1	—	—	—
June	14	9	3	2	—	1	1	—	—	—
July	15	9	1	3	2	1	—	—	1	—
Aug.	14	8	3	2	1	2	1	—	1	—
Sept.	14	4	9	1	—	2	2	—	—	—
Oct.	10	6	2	1	1	2	2	—	—	—
Nov.	9	8	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	—
Dec.	7	3	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	128	85	23	12	8	10	7	—	3	—
Percentages		66.4%	17.9%	9.4%	6.3%		70%	—	30%	—

Number of premises registered:—

(a) Manufacture and retail	...	...	3
(b) Manufacture only	...	...	1
(c) Retail only	...	...	198



## INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

A total number of 46,716 carcasses of meat were inspected during the year.

To improve the keeping of meat a chilling room was created by the side of the cooling room, this is a long felt want and will be much appreciated during the summer months.

17 cases of cysticercosis bovis were diagnosed among cattle slaughtered during the year. The overall rate of infestation was .24 per cent. This is a decrease over last year.

The classification of the 17 cases of cysticercosis bovis are as follows:—

3 cows, 6 heifers, 8 steers (all young cattle).

The following salvage was handed on to the Ministry of Food's Agent for residual recovery purposes:—

		<i>Tons</i>	<i>cwts.</i>	<i>qrs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>
Condemned Meat ...	...	66	2	2	27
Non-edible offals, etc.	...	199	12	0	11
		263	14	3	10

## ANIMALS KILLED AT THE PUBLIC ABATTOIR

	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Pigs	379	690	2,745	2,355	6,640	19,532	18,640
Sheep	23,231	26,542	21,769	27,101	31,969	35,620	18,110
Calves	7,348	8,400	11,995	10,508	7,582	4,119	2,970
Beasts	7,742	10,370	10,120	9,120	9,042	8,897	6,996

Difference from the year 1954:—

Cattle	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
—1,901	—1,149	—17,510	—892

A general decrease of 21,452 animals.

1955. DISEASED OR INJURED MEAT CONDEMNED AT THE ABATTOIR

	<i>Tuberculosis</i>	<i>Cirrhosis (Distoma Hepaticum)</i>	<i>Abscesses</i>	<i>Actinomycosis</i>	<i>Angioma</i>	<i>Anthrax</i>	<i>Bruising &amp; Injured</i>	<i>Cysticercus Bovis</i>	<i>Cysts</i>	<i>Fever</i>	<i>Immaturity</i>	<i>Oedema &amp; Emacia- tion</i>	<i>Inflammation</i>	<i>John's Disease</i>	<i>Moribund and Decomposition</i>	<i>Nephritis &amp; Uraemia</i>	<i>Pluerisy, Pneumonia &amp; Pericarditis</i>	<i>Peritonitis</i>	<i>Pyæmia</i>	<i>Septic</i>	<i>Swine Erysipelas</i>	<i>Fatty Infiltration Degeneration</i>	<i>Joint-ill</i>	<i>Jaundice</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
CATTLE:																									
Carcase and all offal	38	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	18	—	10	—	15	—	—	2	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	88
Part Carcases ...	16	—	—	—	—	—	39	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	55
Heads & Tongues	151	—	72	71	—	—	—	17	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	311
Lungs & Hearts	216	—	121	—	—	—	—	17	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	145	—	—	94	—	—	—	—	593
Livers ...	305	1,361	372	—	655	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	162	—	—	2,855
Guts ...	50	—	38	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	33	74	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	195
Tripes ...	72	—	55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	56	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	183
Skirts ...	77	—	43	—	—	—	—	17	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	187
CALVES:																									
Carcases	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	8	—	6	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	4	39
Part Carcases	—	—	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Livers ...	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Plucks	—	—	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Heads ...	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
SHEEP:																									
Carcases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	54	—	—	13	—	—	—	—	32	—	—	—	—	105
Part Carcases	—	—	13	—	—	—	19	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	32
Heads ...	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
Plucks	—	—	28	—	—	—	—	—	581	—	—	25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	28	—	—	—	—	81
Livers	—	714	—	—	—	—	—	—	28	4	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	146	—	—	1,441
Guts ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	40
PIGS:																									
Carcases	17	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	26	—	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	36	5	—	—	—	104
Part Carcases	—	—	—	—	—	—	63	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	63
Heads ...	191	—	50	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	522	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	241
Plucks	191	—	84	—	—	—	—	—	137	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	850
Livers ...	—	131	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	144	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	397
Guts ...	298	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	131	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	573

The income from slaughtering charges, tolls and rentals was as follows:—

							£	s.	d.
1949	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,588	4	4
1950	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,225	19	6
1951	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,366	8	9
1952	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,332	6	6
1953	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,592	16	10
1954	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,605	19	5
1955, including rentals and tolls etc. as below	...						6,741	17	6
Abattoir Rentals	...	...	...	...	...	...	473	5	7
Car Washing Fees	...	...	...	...	...	...	46	8	8
Sale of manure to Parks Committee etc.							155	1	0
Cattle Rentals	...	...	...	...	...	...	125	16	0
Market Tolls	...	...	...	...	...	...	263	1	2

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	<i>CATTLE including COWS</i>	<i>CALVES</i>	<i>SHEEP and LAMBS</i>	<i>PIGS</i>
Number killed ... ..	6,996	2,970	18,110	18,640
Number inspected ... ..	6,996	2,970	18,110	18,640
<i>All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticeri</i>				
Whole carcasses condemned ...	50	39	105	87
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ... ..	3,475	18	1,600	1,444
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticeri ...	50·63 %	1·72 %	9·4 %	8·2 %
<i>Tuberculosis only</i>				
Whole carcase condemned ...	887	—	—	680
Percentage of the number inspec- ted affected with tuberculosis ...	13·22 %	Nil	Nil	3·7 %
<i>Cysticercosis</i>				
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ... ..	17	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ... ..	17	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil



## DISEASED MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

The total weight of diseased, unsound or injured meat and organs condemned was:—

### Tuberculous Meats:—

	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>Lbs.</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>Lbs.</i>
<b>Beef</b> and organs, including 38 carcasses and 15 quarters ... ..	10	15	3	16				
<b>Pigs</b> and organs including 16 carcasses ... ..		19	0	9				
<hr/>								
Total weight of tuberculous meat	11	14	3	25				

### Non-Tuberculous Meat:—

<b>Beef</b> and organs, including 52 carcasses and 41 quarters ... ..	39	6	1	6				
<b>Pigs</b> and organs, including 88 carcasses and 55 quarters ... ..	9	3	2	14				
<b>Sheep</b> and organs, including 105 carcasses and 32 quarters ... ..	3	1	2	19				
<b>Calves</b> and organs, including 39 carcasses and 4 quarters ... ..		16	0	19				
<hr/>								
Total weight of non-tuberculous meat	52	7	3	2				
<hr/>								
Total weight of all condemned meat	64	2	2	27				
<hr/>								

## UN SOUND FOOD CONDEMNED IN THE TOWN

Meat ... ..	312½ lbs.	Fats ... ..	16½ lbs.
Sausages ... ..	32 lbs.	Dried Egg Powder	160 lbs.
Bacon ... ..	33½ lbs.	Sweets ... ..	5½ lbs.
Poultry ... ..	30 lbs.	Flour ... ..	21 lbs.
Fish ... ..	476 lbs.	Milk Powder ... ..	40 lbs.
Cheese ... ..	146½ lbs.		

### Canned Goods

Meat ... ..	325 cans	Eggs ... ..	28 doz.
Fruit ... ..	636 „	Sweets and	
Fish ... ..	74 „	Chocolates ... ..	54 bars
Vegetables ... ..	503 „	Dates ... ..	3 boxes
Milk ... ..	112 „	Fish Cakes ... ..	10 doz.
Jams & Marmalades	15 „	Cheese Spread ... ..	4 doz.
Cream ... ..	14 „		boxes
Soups ... ..	38 „	Cereals ... ..	2 pkts.
Sauces & Savouries	10 „	Melons ... ..	22
Dog & Cat Food...	4 „	Lemons ... ..	600
Puddings ... ..	1 „		
Coffee ... ..	1 „		

## FOOD AND DRUGS ACT

The number of samples submitted for analysis by the County was 253.

<i>No. of Samples</i>	<i>Description of Samples</i>	<i>Results of Analyses</i>	<i>No. of Samples</i>	<i>Description of Samples</i>	<i>Results of Analyses</i>
85	Milks ...	82 Genuine— 3 Def. of fat	1	Cheezkist ...	Genuine
23	C.I. Milks	... Genuine	1	Baked Beans ...	„
1	Double Milk	... „	1	Processed Peas ...	„
1	Sugar Puffs	... „	4	Stewed Steak ...	„
1	Malt Vinegar	... „	1	Salad Cream ...	„
1	Haliborange	... „	5	Corned Beef ...	„
5	Butter ...	... „	1	Toffees ...	„
5	Margarine	... „	2	Clotted Cream ...	„
3	Cream ...	... „	1	Mints ...	„
1	Crab Meat	... „	1	Pork Roll ...	„
1	Curry Powder	... „	4	Chopped Pork ...	„
2	Processed Cheese		1	Pepper Compound	„
	with Ham	... „	2	Barley Water ...	„
1	Demerara Sugar	... „	2	Lemon Juice ...	„
2	Meat Puddings	... „	1	Biscuits ...	„
1	Cough Candy	... „	2	Chocolate Wafers	„
1	Skels ...	... „	1	Vitafort ...	„
1	Aspirin ...	... „	3	Orange Drink ...	„
1	Butter Brazils	... „	2	Ornage Squash ...	„
1	Blackcurrant Syrup	... „	1	Persomnia ...	„
1	Mustard Sauce	... „	1	Gruyere Cheese ...	„
1	Licorice & Cream		1	Tomato Pulp ...	„
	Allsorts	... „	2	Fruit Cake ...	„
2	Meringue with fresh	... „	1	Rock ...	„
	Dairy Cream	... „	1	Stewed Veal ...	„
1	Milkreem...	... „	1	Eclairs with fresh	
1	Sugared Coconut	... „		Dairy Cream	... „
1	Cheddar Cheese	... „	1	Powder Glucose	
1	Avocado Pears ...	I/L*		with Vitaimn D.	... „
1	Coconut Toffee	... Genuine	1	Chocolate milk	
1	Vecon ...	... „		eclairs ...	... „
1	Meatendra	... „	1	Butter Drops ...	... „
1	Creamed Rice	... „	1	Mint Humbugs ...	... „
1	Pate Tartex	... „	1	Crude Sugar Cane	
1	Selson ...	... „		Molasses ...	... „
1	Cough Pastilles	... „	2	Dressed Crab ...	... „
1	Peppermint		1	Candied Chestnut	
	Lozenges	... „		Spread ...	... „
1	Neophryn	... „	1	Meat Loaf ...	... „
1	Styrion ...	... „	1	Antiseptic Lozenges	... „
1	Glucose mixed fruit		1	Vita Glucose Tablets	... „
	flavoured tablets	... „	1	Pastilles for Sore	
1	Minced Chicken	... „		Gums ...	... „
1	Apple Vinegar ...	... „	1	Nulacin ...	... „
			1	Iron and Yeast ...	... „

<i>No. of Samples</i>	<i>Description of Samples</i>	<i>Results of Analyses</i>	<i>No. of Samples</i>	<i>Description of Samples</i>	<i>Results of Analyses</i>
1	Table Jelly	... Genuine	2	Liqueur Chocolates	Genuine
1	Marshmallow Creme	„	1	Glace Cherries	... „
1	French Mustard	„	1	Glycerine, Lemon	„
1	Lemon Squash	... „		Honey & Ipecuanha	„
1	Meat Patties	... „	1	Raisins	... „
1	Pure Honey	... „	1	Mustard	... „
1	Spiced Ham	... „	1	Buttered Caramels	„
1	Creamed Almond		1	Vitamin C Soloro	„
	Nougat	... „	1	Fruit Candies	
1	Froment	... „		Laxative	... „
1	Luncheon Meat	... „	1	Cream Butter	... „
1	White Pepper	... „	1	Doctor Ceylon Tea	„
1	Lozenges	... „			
1	Mixed Fruit	... „			
1	Glucose Barley				
	Sugar Acid Drops	„			
1	Vitamin B1 Yeast				
	Tablets	... „			
1	Puff Pastry	... „			
1	Marzipan	... „			
1	Pork Brawn	... „			
1	Lamb Tongues	... „			
1	Cream of Mush-				
	room Soup	... „			
1	Fish Cake	... „			

### ICE CREAM

Under 5 per cent fat	... 0
Between 5 and 10 per cent	2
Over 10 per cent fat	... 1

### SAUSAGES

Pork Sausages	1	Genuine
Beef Sausages	1	Genuine

\* One sample incorrectly labelled



V. METEOROLOGY

The weather during 1955 was remarkable for the long period of dry, warm weather during the spring and summer months. There was an official drought of 15 consecutive days in April, and July had 28 days with only a trace recorded.

July had the lowest rainfall since 1911, and August the lowest this century. The total rainfall for the year was the lowest for 13 years.

The total sunshine for the year exceeded the previous ten-year average by 160.2 hours, July setting up a record of over 300 hours.

During July, the maximum temperature exceeded 70° on most days, and August recorded the highest maximum temperature for 13 years—88.4°.

Only slight falls of snow occurred in 1955, snow remaining on the ground for about 4 days in January, and for 3 days in February.

MONTHLY RESULTS OF CLIMATOLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS, 1955

MONTH	AIR TEMPERATURES							Relative Humidity 9 a.m.	Amount of Cloud 9 a.m.	Radiation		RAIN		SUN		SEA Tempera- tures
	MEANS				EXTREMES					Min. on Grass	Amount Inches	No. of days with .04 ins or more	Number of Hours			
	9 a.m.	Max.	Min.	Range	Mean	Max.	Min.									
JANUARY	...	39.4	43.7	35.4	8.3	39.5	54.7	23.7	6.8	31.9	3.34	11	29.8	44.3		
FEBRUARY	...	36.9	41.2	32.9	8.3	37.1	53.3	23.0	5.1	28.2	2.27	11	86.3	41.7		
MARCH	...	39.0	45.3	32.6	12.7	38.9	56.0	34.8	4.8	26.1	.99	6	171.0	40.9		
APRIL	...	48.8	55.8	42.0	13.8	48.9	65.4	28.9	5.1	36.3	1.49	8	175.1	48.5		
MAY	...	52.5	58.1	45.2	12.9	51.7	70.9	36.9	4.9	40.4	3.91	16	220.6	53.1		
JUNE	...	59.4	64.7	52.4	12.3	58.5	73.2	39.6	5.4	49.5	3.10	11	168.1	60.3		
JULY	...	65.6	74.0	57.3	16.7	65.7	83.9	48.4	2.8	52.6	.14	2	304.2	66.1		
AUGUST	...	66.8	75.7	58.3	17.4	67.0	88.4	47.4	5.0	53.1	.47	2	223.7	66.0		
SEPTEMBER	...	60.6	67.7	53.5	14.2	60.6	75.2	45.1	5.0	—	1.91	8	166.3	65.2		
OCTOBER	...	51.9	58.4	45.8	12.6	52.1	67.9	29.5	5.4	39.3	1.80	6	129.8	58.5		
NOVEMBER	...	45.1	51.6	39.5	12.1	45.5	61.9	26.7	6.3	33.9	2.90	7	66.4	51.1		
DECEMBER	...	45.1	49.8	40.2	9.6	45.0	54.9	27.7	6.5	35.3	4.05	18	30.7	45.0		
MEANS AND TOTALS		50.9	57.2	44.6	12.6	50.9	67.1	34.3	5.3	35.5*	26.37	106	1772.0	53.4		

\* 11 months only

*Lawrence Bros. Ltd., London and Weston-super-Mare* (1673)





